

BOTANY.—*Chaboissaea ligulata* Fourn.: A Mexican grass, ERNEST R. SOHNS,
U. S. National Museum. (Communicated by Agnes Chase.)

Chaboissaea, a monotypic genus of the tribe Festuceae, is relatively unknown. The genus was described by Fournier (1886) from material collected by Virlet in San Luis Potosí. A portion of the type in the U. S. National Herbarium bears these data: "*Chaboissaea ligulata* Fourn. Mexique. Prov. de San Luis. Coll. Virlet d'Aoust 1851." This species was collected a second time in 1910 by A. S. Hitchcock "No. 7693, along railway, Sanchez, Chihuahua, Oct. 12, 1910. Alt. 8000 ft." The writer collected this grass at three stations near San Felipe, Guanajuato, in October 1952 (Fig. 1). These plants were growing in hard, rocky, clay soil on the banks of dry irrigation ditches and on the rocky slopes of Cerro del Fraile. Associated species were *Eragrostis diffusa* Buckl., *E. plumbea* Scribn., *Panicum vaseyanum* Scribn., and *Andropogon hirtiflorus* var. *feensis* (Fourn.) Hack.

In its natural habitat this grass suggests a species of *Muhlenbergia* or *Eragrostis*.

Perhaps this is the reason it has been infrequently collected. The purpose of this paper is to review the history of the genus and, with additional data from new material, to supplement the original description. It is hoped that this species will be represented more frequently in grass collections from Mexico.

Most taxonomists, after Fournier, treated the genus as a member of the tribe Agrostideae. *Chaboissaea* belongs in the tribe Festuceae. Hackel (1890) listed the genus at the end of his work among the doubtful genera, and he assumed that the Festuceae was the correct tribe. Lamson-Scribner and Merrill (1900) misapplied the name and transferred it to *Muhlenbergia ligulata*, citing two Palmer specimens, nos. 731 and 948 from Durango, these later described as *Muhlenbergia subbiflora* Hitchc. Hitchcock (1913) accepted Lamson-Scribner and Merrill's relegation of *Chaboissaea ligulata* to synonymy under *M. ligulata*. Bews (1929)



FIG. 1.—Map of northern Mexico. Collection localities are indicated by black dots. Type material was collected in San Luis Potosí, no precise locality given.